

Absolute Truth & Prophecy

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THEY KNEW NOT GOD – PART V

Throughout this series we've establishing the fact that we in the West, in America, now live in a society that has abandoned God's ways in favor of our own. In Romans 1, God speaks to this very issue through the Apostle Paul. What follows is not always easy to hear. It is a damning indictment. But it's time we set down markers.

SIN & CONSEQUENCES

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.” (Romans 1:18-19)

We have built a culture where God is irrelevant. We have rejected Him; swept Him from our civil discourse or – in the name of tolerance – by recognizing the Divine in only a generic form, - we've robbed our notion of Him of it's real power. Further, we have in the process robbed ourselves of our very purpose. But something must fill the place once occupied by God. Thus we have made ourselves little gods. That self-centeredness has its price. Romans 1:18, quoted above tells us that price: **“The wrath of God”**. And it is levied against those who would **“suppress the truth in unrighteousness”**. This is how that wrath is expressed - at least at the beginning. Romans 1:24, **“Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness.”** In the preceding verses Paul describes just why. **“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools.”** (Romans 1:20-22) We have indeed become fools. In our creation of a God-rejecting culture, we've elevated ourselves to serve as the purpose of our own existence. Yet God does not allow for this. As the Scripture reads, we are not excused for our ignorance. It is willful. We are **“without excuse”**. Now we must admit that uncleanness and lust has become to a large degree the defining centerpiece of the culture. Therefore we who **“suppress the truth in unrighteousness”** have in essence, **“exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator.”** And God abandons us yet further. **“For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.”** (Romans 1:25-27) Verses 28-31 summarize God's the reasons for God's judgment. **“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”**

God gave them up and over **“to a debased mind.”** They had not enough sense to even see what was happening to them. That is us today. We are facing abandonment by God...because we've abandoned Him first. It is totally our choice. We

choose a false freedom over God. CS Lewis makes the point in his seminal work, *The Problem of Pain*. “The lost – enjoy forever the horrible freedom they have demanded – and are therefore self-enslaved.” While it is completely our choice, it begs the question: Why? A passage about the coming of the Antichrist found in 2Thessalonians 2:9-12 answers it well. **“The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”** It is really quite simple. The love of TRUTH is equivalent to the love of GOD.

The fact is our current culture prefers sin over TRUTH. We’ve chosen TOLERANCE as the supreme value. It is a cardinal virtue to proclaim that all cultures and life-styles are of equal value. This of course is nonsense. Look at the road it has taken us. Recently Argentina and our own state of New Hampshire have been added to the places recognizing and even celebrating Gay Marriage. Though we flaunt and posture, we are not fooling the Almighty. We’ve chosen the things of this world over the things of God. **“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”** (Galatians 6:7-8) From our inception America has been a blessed and favored nation. Yet we have taken the path of abandonment, and now by our own actions, God is justified in abandoning us, - of giving us over. Judges 10:13 reads, **“Yet you have forsaken Me and served other gods. Therefore I will deliver you no more.”** And here are the haunting words of Hosea 4:17. **“Ephraim is joined to idols. Let him alone.”**¹

The fact is; - this is not the way we started out. Though they might tell you today that America was founded as a secular country, - that the Founding Father’s were Deists at best, - and that separation of Church and State and in general keeping God out of things was their intent: It is not so! As we have noted earlier, this nation was dedicated to God from its inception by people who were for the most part committed to the cause of Christ. As Del Tackett points out in the Truth Project, our forefathers approached the establishment of America with a mindset based in a comprehensive Biblical worldview. They looked to God’s word to define the proper relationships between man and man, man and the planet, and man and God. They took to heart the Scriptures when they revealed that God was the Judge, the Lawgiver, and the King, - exactly mirroring the three-branches of the Constitutional government they established. They believed the words of Isaiah 33:22. **“For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us.”**

Though human and therefore sinners, they attempted to lay down a Biblical foundation on which to build the nation. This is no barren myth, perpetuated by zealous patriots and right wing extremists. It was noted by the greatest observer of American culture of the 19th century, Alexis de Tocqueville. De Tocqueville wrote in his oft-quoted *Democracy In America*, published in 1835. “The Americans combine the notions of Christianity and of liberty so intimately in their minds, that it is impossible to make them conceive the one without the other.”² He was only noting what the nation’s great men had rehearsed with constant zeal in the centuries preceding. None less than Washington himself in his Farewell Address, declared that “religion and morality are indispensable supports” of “political prosperity.”³ [This was a far cry from the hue and cry that President Clinton’s reluctantly admitted moral indiscretions. A majority maintained that these were entirely irrelevant and a purely private matter!] Our second President, John Adams, concurred. He wrote “it is Religion and Morality alone, which can establish the Principles upon which Freedom can securely stand.”⁴ Founding Father Richard Henry Lee, who “moved” for independence at the Continental Congress in June of 1776, - defined the relationship, holding that “the experience of all times shows religion to be the guardian of morals.”⁵ This was a common view among the men who put forth the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution and formed our first governments. Sam Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Noah Webster, Gouverneur Morris and others held to the same position. The idea is this. The Christian religion was the foundation. On that was laid the morality of the body politic. Only then was a republic possible. That in turn, is what made real liberty possible. And those are our founding principles.

But that did not last long. Darwinism was introduced with the publication of *The Origin of Species* in 1859 and just ten years later, Harvard, once a stalwart bastion of Christianity was handed over to its new president, Charles Elliott. He was committed to the advancement of evolution as fact and believed that it should apply to all areas of society. So too did his handpicked choice to head Harvard Law, Christopher Langdell. Thus the centuries-old basis of the law based on Blackstone with its foundations clearly found in the Word of God and the Christian religion, was thrown out. Dell Tackett describes the former approach. "Blackstone taught that every law crafted by man, if it were to be good law, must conform to God's law, found in the Scripture and in nature ("written on the conscience of men")." There was a time in the early years of this country when it was even a general requirement to adhere to the Scriptures to hold public office in the various states. That soon went away. The new system was now based in case law. Law became an evolving thing, bringing with it an evolving morality. There was no longer a basis for moral TRUTH. Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes carried the banner for the new ethic. The law had now become, "simply an embodiment of the ends and purposes of society at a given point in its history...beliefs that have triumphed and nothing more."⁶ The state itself then becomes the ultimate authority for creating and interpreting the law. Legal TRUTH is a creature of the government. And the government is the tool of the ascendant forces in the culture; - in theory the PEOPLE, - but in practice the ELITE. Scary prospect! This is what we have become satisfied with. The culture is at war with itself: And morality and TRUTH are but the whim of the victors. As a society, **"we have not the love of the truth."** **"And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness."**

YADAS

ON THE PEACE FRONT – Egypt and the Saudis have offered the President a peace plan that would see an American guarantee of a settlement based on the 1967 borders. The Egyptian plan calls for recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine, even before the negotiations start. DEBKA is reporting that the two countries have received assurances that Hamas will go along by dissociating itself from Iran and indicating a willingness to partner up with the Abbas' Palestinian Authority in a National Unity Government. That undercuts Israel's best argument against 'peace now' based on pre-Six Day War boundaries. George Mitchell, President Obama's Middle East Envoy meanwhile is pushing the administration's track for a working peace agreement in place within 2 years. He wants negotiations with Syria at the same time. That means that the President expects the Israelis to return the Golan Heights as part of a comprehensive deal; - surrendering the military high ground and increasing their vulnerability to an attack on yet another front. Mitchell went so far as to threaten the Israelis with a cutoff of American aid should they fail to cooperate in advancing the peace process according to American likings. [The Presidential Envoy later clarified that incentives and sanctions would be available to both sides. *After all, the US must act as an equal opportunity dictator.*] In addition the President has signaled that there is no hard deadline for further sanctions to force Tehran to halt its nuclear weapons program. This is an abandonment of Israel on its two most critical fronts; - both of which threaten its very survival.^{7 8 9 10 11} We are reminded here of the blessing and the curse found in Genesis 12:3. **"I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse"** (ESV)

ON THE WAR FRONT – According to World Net Daily, the Israeli military is gearing up to go after Hamas in 2010, to "dramatically weaken" the Gaza-based terror group / government. Egyptian forces have been operating to isolate Hamas forces and limit terror raids.¹² DEBKA sees the same preparations but says that both the IDF and Egypt are targeting a growing al-Qaeda presence in the area. Whether it comes from Hezbollah or al-Qaeda, the IDF is concerned that in the next war the Israelis may be facing chemical or biological attacks. They could be delivered via missiles or local terrorists, with Tel Aviv being the most likely prize target. The Israeli government is responding by providing 4.5million anti-WMD-masks. Now the al-Qaeda forces in Palestine are believed to be linked to their new HQ in Pakistan. Speaking of al-Qaeda, the amorphous terror-group is gathering strength in Yemen, on the doorstep of putative America ally, Saudi Arabia. [The US is anxious to keep the Royals on the throne and the oil flowing back to the homeland.] While supporting

operations by the Yemeni military to root out al-Qaeda, it is not likely that America will have the stomach or the resources to fight this war. However, US drones recently took out al-Qaeda's top leaders in Yemen.^{13 14 15 16}

WAR & PEACE – Today's Iran is ancient Persia, referred to in Bible prophecy as a key nation in the Magog coalition that will come against Israel in the last days. Right now that country is on the throes of revolution as mobs take to the streets and government forces brutally clamp down, with jailing, torture and murder of key opposition operatives.¹⁷ Still the Iranian drive to acquire a nuclear capability of their own goes on. Intelligence suggests that Tehran is trying to arrange to import 1,350 tons of purified uranium from Kazakhstan.¹⁸ In the face of all that, the Obama administration is assiduously avoiding any high-end saber rattling, while the Pentagon goes ahead with preparations for what Joint Chiefs head Admiral Mike Mullen calls, "contingencies that we understand might occur."¹⁹ Meanwhile, the Arab paper Katari Al Watan is reporting that Syria has given Iranian client Hezbollah, firm assurances that it will back Hezbollah in any future conflict with the Israelis.²⁰ The outlines of a Biblically based conflict are forming. This newsletter has covered before how a reading of Psalm 83, and several of the passages in Isaiah along with other Scripture, point to a war between Israel and an inner-ring of Arab countries that will likely precede the Gog-Magog invasion described in Ezekiel 38- that will see Iran marching with the Turks, the former Islamic-Soviet Republics, Libya and possibly – (depending how you interpret it) – Russia. In the first war, the Psalms 83 War, - Israel vanquishes its nearest neighbors, - annihilating the Palestinians – (see Obadiah) – and it is likely that this is the time when Damascus is destroyed. (See Isaiah 17:1, Psalm 83 & Obadiah among others.) Now the alliances for that war seem to be forming. At the same time, Turkey is moving out of the orbit of the West and into the arms of the Islamic cause. A MEMRI headline read: "Syria, Turkey Seek Strategic Alliance with Iran, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon."²¹ Those include a good sample of Israel's enemies in both the expected Psalms 83 War and the Magog invasion to follow. *Things is heating up!*

MARRIAGE ON TRIAL – California's Gay Marriage Ban went to trial in Federal Court. The plaintiffs hope to take the case all the way to the Supreme Court in an effort to see same-sex marriage enshrined as a constitutional right across the United States. Forty states now have ordinances defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman.²² The ultimate aim of the lawsuit is to take away the right of the people to define the nature of marriage.

THE MOST EXPLOSIVE NAME

Britt Hume started a firestorm the other day while discussing the sordid affairs of golf legend Tiger Woods on a *FOX News Sunday* segment, by promoting the forgiving nature of Jesus Christ and the properly understood Christian faith. Noting that Tiger was a self-professed Buddhist, the veteran semi-retired news anchor offered this advice. "I don't think that faith offers the kind of forgiveness and redemption that is offered by the Christian faith. So my message to Tiger would be...turn to the Christian faith and you can make a total recovery and be a great example to the world."²³ Now it's Hume's words that have caused the liberal media to go into apoplexy. In a subsequent explanation of his remarks, he called the words "Jesus Christ" the "most explosive words in the English language."²⁴ While the attacks on his remarks have been numerous it has actually been a boon to the spreading of the gospel. In a CBN interview Hume shared his personal testimony, describing how the tragic suicide of his son had led him to experience the love and see the "face of God". God's good news was shared. And sharp tongued conservative wit Ann Coulter dedicated a whole column to the event. After laying the groundwork and throwing her usual barbs, managed to share the gospel – in her own edgy way. "God sent his only son to get the crap beaten out of him, die for our sins and rise from the dead. If you believe that, you're in. Your sins are washed away from you -- sins even worse than adultery! -- because of the cross. **He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.**' Colossians 2:14 (NLT). Then she went on to talk about the seriousness of the faith, saying that if "you believe Christ died for your sins and rose from the dead, you have no choice but to give your life entirely over to Him. No more sexual promiscuity, no lying, no cheating, no stealing, no killing inconvenient old people or unborn babies -- no doing what all the other kids do."²⁵ That's the real power of the gospel at work. And so we have yet another example of God using a bad thing, serial adultery, as an opportunity to work things for the good – through the sharing of His salvation message.

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- ¹ Much of the preceding material has been adapted from a sermon by John F MacArthur Jr entitled: Can God Bless America?, delivered in 2002 and available online at <http://www.biblebb.com/files/MAC/80-245.htm>
- ² Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy In America, Chapter XVII, 1835, as quoted from Wikipedia article on de Tocqueville
- ³ Washington's Farewell Address, 1796, quoted from The Avalon Project, Yale Law School
- ⁴ John Adams, Wikipedia, viewed January 6, 2010
- ⁵ Richard Henry Lee, quoted in Religion and the Founding of the American Republic, Chapter V, <http://74.125.93.132/search?q=cache:3E-YMX0aSSQJ:www.loc.gov/exhibits/religion/rel05.html+%22religion+to+be+the+guardian+of+morals%22+patrick+henry+%27&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us>
- ⁶ Dell Tackett, A Lesson From My Past: Part IV, The Truth Project, Focus On The Family, 2005
- ⁷ Obama finally forswears tough sanctions on Iran, DEBKAFfile, January 6, 2010
- ⁸ New Egyptian-Saudi Peace Plan, DEBKAFfile, January 7, 2010
- ⁹ Forced Peace, YNet News, January 8, 2010
- ¹⁰ US Begins Push For Final Peace Accord, YNet News, January 7, 2010
- ¹¹ Egypt's Plan, YNet News, January 6, 2010
- ¹² Aaron Klein, There Are Preparations..., World Net Daily, January 7, 2010
- ¹³ US intelligence: Southern Gaza is the next Yemen, DEBKAFfile, January 5, 2010
- ¹⁴ The US can't afford to open a Yemen front, DEBKAFfile Special Analysis, January 4, 2010
- ¹⁵ US drones..., DEBKAFfile, December 24, 2009
- ¹⁶ Expectations High For Conflict in 2010, International Analyst Network, Prophecy News Watch, January 8, 2010
- ¹⁷ Iran reels toward popular counter-revolution, DEBKAFfile, December 28, 2009
- ¹⁸ Intelligence report, AP, December 29, 2009
- ¹⁹ US preparing for possible Iran conflict, Jerusalem Post, January 8, 2010
- ²⁰ Syria will back Hizbullah against IDF, Jerusalem Post, January 6, 2010
- ²¹ Syria, Turkey Seek Strategic Alliance with Iran, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, MEMRI, January 1, 2010
- ²² Gay marriage ban goes on trial in California, Reuters, January 11, 2010
- ²³ Hume's words were reported by many media outlets. I took the quote from: Advice To Tiger, One News Now, AP, January 5, 2010
- ²⁴ Journalist: Jesus Christ - 'two most explosive words in English language', One News Now, January 7, 2010
- ²⁵ Ann Coulter, If You Can Find A Better Deal, Take It!, Yahoo News, January 7, 2010